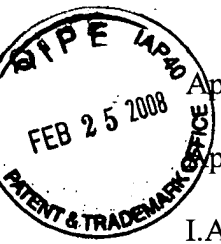


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



ApplicantS : Akihiro YASUDA et al.

Group Art Unit : 2852

Appl. No. : 10/575,356

Examiner : R. M. Gleitz

I.A. Filed : April 11, 2006

Confirmation No. : 1651

For : FIXING DEVICE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement that was previously filed on July 6, 2006, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner a Japanese Notice of Reason for Rejection dated December 25, 2007 with respect to patent family member Japanese Patent Application No. 2005-514737, in which the following documents were cited:

- (1) JP 10-074009 A. Applicants note that this document was previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 6, 2006, and thus a copy of this document is not provided herewith;
- (2) WO 03/039197 A1, which is submitted with an English language Abstract and an English language partial translation thereof, and which is a patent family member of US 7,122,768; US 7,194,234; US 2004/0169036; and US 2004/0253887; and

- (3) JP 2002-040843 A, which is submitted with an English language Abstract of the same.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the Japanese claims by the Japanese Examiner, is set forth in the Japanese Notice of Reason for Rejection.

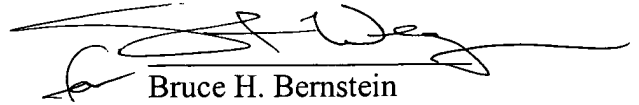
Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, with the exception of document (1), are attached hereto, and all of the documents, with the exception of document (1), are listed on an attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the Japanese Notice of Reason for Rejection, including an English language translation thereof, is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form, and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, Applicants hereby certify that each new item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement (i.e., above-noted documents (2) and (3)) was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement, and thus no fee is required to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Akihiro YASUDA et al.



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February 13, 2008
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